tion of milk.powder in the country; and

(d) what are the results thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) With the objective of promoting export® of milk powder, its export has been decanalised with effect from 29.9.1994. Exports arc now being allowed against quantitative ceilings which are placed at the disposal of Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority. Exports are permitted subject only to quality specifications and compulsory preshipment inspection by designated agencies.

(e) and (d) The Government has already delicensed the milk products industry under the Industries (Development & Regulation) Act, 1951 sub ject to locational parameters. Due to the liberalised policy of the Govern ment, the production of milk powders including infant milk foods has incre ased from 1,65,000 tonnes in the year 1992 to 1,85,000 tonnes in the year 1993.

**Open licencing of paddy shelling**

819. SHKI BHUPINDER SINGH MANN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE, be pleased to state 1

(a) whether under the liberalization policy of Government open licencing of shelling of paddy *rum* been allowed'

(b) if so, since when; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefnr?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise-

(c) All rice millers in the country are required to obtain a permt under Rice Milling Industry (Regulation) Act, 1958andRice-Milling. Industry '(Regulation & Licensing) Rules, 1959 before commencing milling perations.

**Private and state sectors o set up EPZs**

520. SHRI K. M. KHAN:
SHRI IQBAL SINGH:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleesed to state:

(a) whether the private and State sectors have been permitted to *set up* export procesing zones;

(b) if so, the details thereof with objectives;

(c) whether prior to this liberalisation some Export "processing zones were *in* existence;

(d) if so, the details thereof with their functions;

(e) the extent by which EPZ are likely to the help in the development of infrastructural facilities for industrial development and export; *end*

(f) if so, the details thereof and if not, reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Yes. Sir.

(b) to (f) The Government has recently decided to permit establishment of Export Processing Zones (EPZs) by the private joint sector or Stat? Governments with a view to involving the private and State sectors in the provision of infrastructural facilities for industrial development and exports. Policy, procedures and benefits in respect of units in EPZs would nlso apply in the case of EPZ", developed by the private [joint sector or State Governments. EPZ promoters would have to fulfill the "prescribed requirements of security as well as relevant customs lawn and procedures, beer the custom banding charges, comply with local industrial, labour or